

Cosponsor the TREAT Long COVID Act and Promote Long COVID Priorities

Sending Office: Honorable Ayanna Pressley
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One-Pager

Bill Text

Co-Leads: Lisa Blunt Rochester, Don Beyer

Cosponsors: Adams, Barragán, Bera, Bowman, Bush, Carter, Cherfilus-McCormick, Chu, Cleaver, Connolly, Crockett, Frost, Jesús “Chuy” García, Grijalva, Jacobs, Khanna, Krishnamoorthi, Kuster, Lofgren, McGovern, Mullin, Norton, Omar, Pingree, Porter, Quigley, Schiff, Adam Smith, Stansbury, Tlaib, Tokuda, Trone, Velázquez

Endorsements: COVID-19 Longhailer Advocacy Project, Body Politic, Patient-Led Research Collaborative, Utah COVID-19 Long Haulers, Access Living, National Health Council, American Physical Therapy Association, Massachusetts ME/CFS & FM Association, American Academy of

Dear Colleague,

As you consider spending priorities on the floor, please join me in uplifting the investments needed in the Long COVID community and cosponsoring the TREAT Long COVID Act.

Last month, researchers called for a moonshot initiative for Long COVID – a commitment from the U.S. government to invest at least \$1 billion annually over the next ten years to researching this disease.^[1] Patients, providers, and advocates across the country are backing this call, which would provide the sustained research funding necessary to find answers for the nearly 18 million people who have been affected by Long COVID across the country,^[2] as well as the more than 65 million people suffering from it around the world.^[3] As funding for the RECOVER Initiative is running out, it is crucial that we do not turn our backs on this community.

In addition to research, people living with Long COVID need high-quality care and support. Those battling Long COVID may experience a combination of symptoms, ranging from extreme fatigue and cognitive dysfunction to muscle pain and gastrointestinal issues, as well as difficulty in breathing, insomnia, and heart palpitations. Their care requires a holistic and evidence-based approach, yet the majority of U.S. physicians lack confidence in diagnosing or treating Long COVID.^[4] There is still no federal program focused on expanding treatment options for this unique and growing population, and resources for advancing cures and treatments remain uncoordinated across multiple agencies. The absence of specialized and coordinated support contributes to patients experiencing greater physical and mental anguish, disruption in employment and education, and reduced quality of life. As policymakers, we must act to provide the bold federal investments that are necessary for patients to receive the accessible and affordable medical care they deserve.

The TREAT Long COVID Act would do just that by expanding Long COVID clinics and empowering health care providers—including community health centers and local public health departments—to treat Long COVID patients in their own communities by:

- Authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants up to \$2,000,000 to health care providers, including community health centers;
- Granting funding for the creation and expansion of multidisciplinary Long COVID clinics to address the physical and mental health needs of patients;
- Prioritizing funding for health providers that plan to engage Long COVID patient organizations, medically underserved populations, and populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19;
- Ensuring that treatment is not denied based on insurance coverage, date or method of diagnosis, preexisting conditions, or previous hospitalization;
- Encouraging ongoing medical training for physicians in Long COVID Clinics and other health care workers serving patients; and
- Requiring grantees to submit an annual report on its activities that includes evaluations from patients.

This bill was designed in close partnership with patients and advocates from the Long COVID community.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Bayley in Rep. Pressley's office at bayley.connors@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ayanna Pressley

Member of Congress

[1] *Long COVID research risks losing momentum – we need a moonshot*, nature (18 October 2023), [nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03225-w](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03225-w).

[2] *Long COVID in Adults: United States, 2022*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (September 2023), https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db480.htm#section_1.

[3] *65 Million People Suffer from Long Covid. Our Experts Say New Vaccines Are the Best Defense*, Forbes (22 October 2023), [forbes.com/sites/melissadelaney/2023/10/20/covid-19-vaccines/?sh=2ee7a5d14692](https://www.forbes.com/sites/melissadelaney/2023/10/20/covid-19-vaccines/?sh=2ee7a5d14692).

[4] *Poll: Doctors Feel Unprepared to Treat Long COVID*, de Beaumont Foundation (March 2023), debeaumont.org/news/2023/long-covid-poll.

Related Legislative Issues

Selected legislative information: HealthCare



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